

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, said group pickup system comprising:

one or more call group locations associated with different ones of said one or more servers, each of said one or more servers including call group lists of members for each call group, said each call group having listed members from said one or more call group locations; an invite request unit to invoke the group pickup system;

a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to any of a plurality of group pickup destinations to enable a call to a called station to be picked up from any group pickup destination, said destination being manually and automatically selectable, said destinations being automatically serially selected responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and manually selected responsive to a responding listed group member location; and

a retrieval request unit to connect a selected call pickup station with said call to said called station.

2. (original) The system as recited in claim 1 further including an exception handler adapted to handle failures in the group pickup system.

3. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said one or more servers is a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, and wherein a call pickup party may be located on any server within the network and picking up a call at a destination associated with another server in the network.

4. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein each server micro-controls pickup functions for resident group members and responds to group pickup requests and status notification from other ones of said one or more servers.
5. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include excessive network congestion.
6. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include a vacant number.
7. (original) The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said network failure may include no route to destination.
8. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said invite request unit comprises a manual select unit and an automatic select unit, and manually selecting comprises picking up said call at said destination and automatically serially selecting comprises sequentially contacting listed group members in a listed order for a corresponding group.
9. (currently amended) A method for picking up a call in a group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, each of said one or more servers including call group lists of members for each call group, said each call group having listed members from said one or more call group locations, said method comprising:
 - invoking the group pickup system;
 - establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable said call to be parked at said group pickup destination, said group pickup destination being one of said one or more group locations associated with one of said one or more servers;
 - ~~automatically~~ serially selecting destinations automatically and manually from a list of said one or more group locations to identify a call pickup destination, said destinations being automatically serially selected destinations responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and manually selected responsive to a responding listed group member location; and

connecting said call pickup destination with said parked call, said call pickup destination picking up responsive to control of an associated one of said one or more servers;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 9, further including the step of handling failures in the group pickup system.

11. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein one or more servers is a plurality of servers, at least one said call group having listed members from call group locations associated with each of at least two of said plurality of servers, ones of said plurality of servers being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, said method further including the step of picking up said parked call from any said at least one call group pickup destination within the network, wherein said call pickup destination may be manually selected from one of said one or more group locations before a location is automatically selected.

12. (currently amended) A group pickup system in a communication network having one or more servers, said group pickup system comprising:

means for maintaining call group lists of members for a plurality of call groups;

means for invoking the group pickup system;

means responsive to said invoking means for establishing a connection to a group pickup destination to enable parking calls at said group pickup destination, said group pickup destination being a first of said one or more group locations associated with one of said one or more servers;

means for ~~automatically~~ serially selecting destinations ~~automatically and manually~~ from a list of said one or more group locations located anywhere within the network to identify a pickup destination, said destinations being automatically serially selected responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and manually selected responsive to a responding listed group member location; and

means for connecting said pickup destination with a parked call;

wherein said group pickup system comprises a supplementary service group pickup system.

13. (original) The system as recited in claim 12 further including means for handling failures in the group pickup system.

14. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 12, wherein one or more servers is a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, said system further including means for picking up calls from anywhere within the network, wherein said pickup destination may be manually selected from one of said one or more group locations before a location is automatically selected.

15. (currently amended) A system for enabling group pickup in a communications network including a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions enabling incoming calls to stations associated with any server to be picked up by local stations associated with others of said ones, each of said ones comprising:

group list storage storing lists of members for a plurality of call groups;

a request unit to enable operation of the group pickup system when there is an unanswered call at a listed member station, said request unit automatically serially selecting destinations responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and manually selecting responsive to a responding listed group member location;

a connect unit responsive to said request unit to make local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote listed group member stations associated with said ones which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations; and

a call establishing unit for establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup station, wherein the calling station and selected call pickup station may be associated with different servers and define listed member stations.

16. (previously presented) A system according to claim 15, in which the request unit comprises:
an automatic mode unit that automatically serially searches for a listed group member local station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call, and selectively designates an identified listed group member local station as said selected call pickup station; and

a manual mode unit that is initiated by a listed group member who is aware of an unanswered call at another station and searches for an alerting listed group member station, wherein said manual mode unit designates an identified said alerting listed group member station as said selected call pickup station.

17. (previously presented) A system according to claim 16, wherein each of said ones further comprises a remote search unit to search for a listed remote group member that is manually alerting or determined available.

18. (previously presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein the remote search unit sends a temporary signaling connection with a facility request to search all the listed group member stations at a remote location.

19. previously presented) A system according to claim 15, wherein each of said ones further comprises a queue/dequeue unit for selecting a group member from a database including listed groups.

20. (previously presented) A system according to claim 16, wherein each of said ones further comprises means for assessing whether an available/alerting listed group member station fulfills set criteria before final selection thereof.

21. (previously presented) A system according to claim 15, wherein each of said ones further comprises a release links unit to release any temporary links used in establishing the connection and/or convert them to a bearer service cell.

22. (currently amended) A method of enabling group pickup in a communications network including a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions enabling incoming calls to stations associated with any server to be picked up by local stations associated with others of said ones, said method comprising:

maintaining call group lists of members for a plurality of call groups;

enabling the group pickup operation when there is an unanswered call at a listed member station anywhere on the network;

making local and/or remote connections to various local and/or remote listed group member stations which may act as call pickup stations or unanswered stations;

serially selecting a call pickup local station automatically responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and manually selecting responsive to a responding listed group member location; and

establishing a connection between the calling station and a selected call pickup local station, wherein call pickup local stations and unanswered stations are associated with listed members of the same call group and different servers.

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22, further including the step of automatically serially searching for a listed group member local station that may be available to pick up an unanswered call.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 22, further including the step of searching for an alerting group member local station manually triggered by a listed group member at another station, wherein manually triggering comprises one of dialing an access code from said alerting group member local station and picking up said alerting group member local station.

25. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, further including the step of handling failures in the group pickup system.

26. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 22, further including the step of picking up a call from anywhere within the network.

27. (currently amended) A telecommunications system comprising:

a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions enabling pickup of incoming calls to stations associated any server by local stations associated with others of said ones;

a plurality of telephone devices, each associated with one of said plurality of servers; and
a group pickup system including at least one call group list listing members in a group pickup group comprising a predetermined number of said plurality of telephony devices associated with different ones of said plurality of servers and which allows call pickup of any call to a listed group member by any listed group member station connected to any of said plurality of servers, wherein the pickup station may be automatically serially or manually selected, said pickup station being automatically serially selected responsive to one of an alerting listed group member station and manually selected responsive to a responding listed group member station.